IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-32. (Cancelled).

Claim 33. (New) A method for stabilizing a biologically active material comprising the steps of:

(a) fluidizing microparticles within a processing chamber to form a fluidized bed of said microparticles, wherein said microparticles comprise water-soluble gel forming solid particles;

(b) under saturated moisture conditions, spraying a coating liquid onto said fluidized bed of step (a) from beneath said fluidized bed to coat said microparticles with said coating liquid, wherein said coating liquid comprises:

(i) at least one biologically active material,

(ii) a sugar polymer, and

(iii) a water soluble/miscible solvent; and

(c) drying the resulting coated microparticles of step (b).

Claim 34. (New) The method of Claim 33, further comprising coating the resulting microparticles of step (c) with a coating selected from the group consisting of an enteric coating, a film

coating, a moisture repellant coating, a taste-masking coating and a combination of any such coatings.

Claim 35. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the drying in step (c) is heat drying.

Claim 36. (New) The method of Claims 33, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a peptide, and a cell.

Claim 37. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the water soluble/miscible solvent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, propylene glycol, and a combination of glycerol and propylene.

Claim 38. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the sugar polymer is selected from the group comprising dextran, fructose, fruitose, glucose, invert sugar, lactitol, lactose, maltitol, maltodextrin, maltose, mannitol, sorbitol, sucrose, trehalose, isomalt, xylitol, polydextrose, and a combination thereof.

Claim 39. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the water-soluble gel forming solid particles comprise a member selected from the group consisting of an acrylate, acrylate derivative, albumin, alginate, carbomer, carrageenan, cellulose, cellulose derivative, dextran, dextrin, gelatine, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and starch.

Claim 40. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein said method is conducted in a moisture saturated environment.

Claim 41. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein said method is conducted in an oxygen free environment.

Claim 42. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the coated microparticles are formed into a composition for injection, a

sublingual tablet, an oral tablet, a sustained release sublingual tablet, microcapsules, pessaries, preconstituted solid dose for nasal spray or drops, aqueous drops, eye wash or drops, skin washing solutions, or a feed premix.

Claim 43. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein said microparticles have a particle size of 50 microns to one millimeter.

Claim 44. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, cytokine, growth factor and a combination of any two or more thereof.

Claim 45. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a human or animal growth hormone, erythropoietin, calcitonin, interferon, interleukin, insulin and colony stimulating factor.

Claim 46. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the biologically active material is an enzyme.

Claim 47. (New) The method of Claim 46, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of streptokinase, muramidase, pancreas, amylase, protease, lypase, cellulase, bromelain and papain.

Claim 48. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the biologically active material is glucan.

Claim 49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said glucan is β-1,3-glucan.

Claim 50. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the biologically active material is a microorganism.

Claim 51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein said microorganism is *Bifidus* or *Lactobacilli*.

Claim 52. (New) A product produced by the method of any of Claims 33 to 51.

Claim 53. (New) A composition comprising microparticle cores coated with a coating layer comprising a biologically active material and a sugar polymer, wherein the resulting microparticles comprise water-soluble forming solid particles selected from two or more of the group consisting of dextrose, starch, gelatin, albumin and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

Claim 54. (New) The composition according to Claim 53, wherein the resulting coated microparticles are coated with an enteric coating, a film coating, a moisture repellent coating, a taste-masking coating, or a combination of any such coatings.

Claim 55. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a peptide and a cell.

Claim 56. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, cytokine, growth hormone, or a combination of any two or more thereof.

Claim 57. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a human or animal growth hormone, erythropoietin, calcitonin, interferon, interleukin, insulin, and colony stimulating factor.

Claim 58. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is a microorganism.

Claim 59. (New) The composition of Claim 58, wherein said microorganism is *Bifidus* or *Lactobacilli*.

Claim 60. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is an anti-diarrhoea agent.

Claim 61. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is a growth promotant.

Claim 62. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein said microparticles comprise a member selected from the group consisting of an acrylate, acrylate derivative, albumin, alginate, carbomer, carrageenan, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, dextran, dextrin, gelatine, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and starch.

Claim 63. (New) The composition of Claim 53, wherein said composition is in the form of an injectable composition, sublingual tablet, oral tablet, sustained release sublingual tablet, microcapsule, pessaries, preconstituted solid dose for nasal spray or drops, aqueous drops, eye wash or drops, skin washing solutions, or a feed premix.